DC

DARK NIGHTS

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BATMAN™ THE MERCILESS

DARK NIGHTS METAL TIE-IN

FABOK 2017

Tomasi
Manapul

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM DEC 2017

#1 FEATURES A GLOW-IN-THE-DARK COVER!
JOURNEY INTO DEATH!
DEADMAN
A NEW 6-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY COMICS LEGEND
NEAL ADAMS

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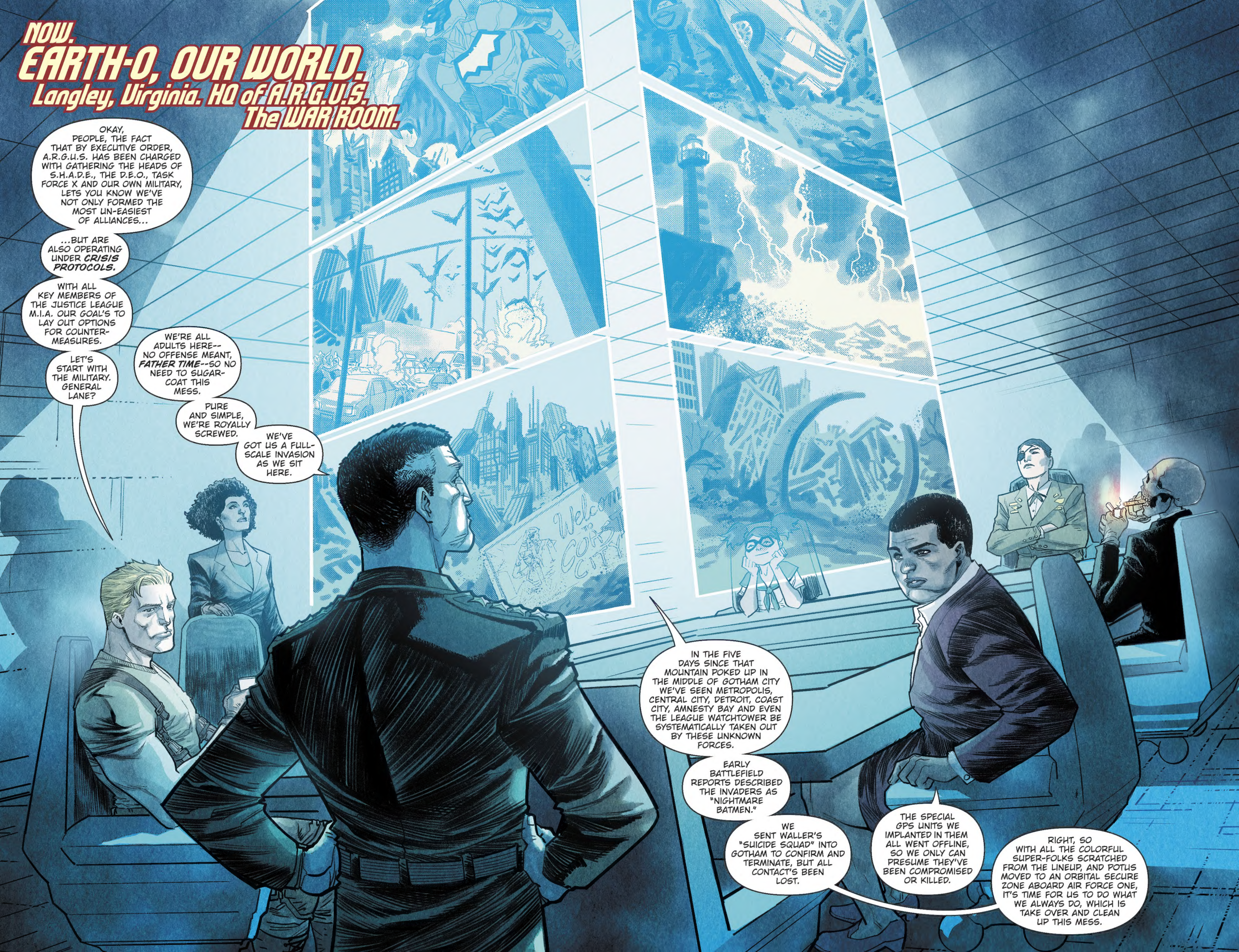
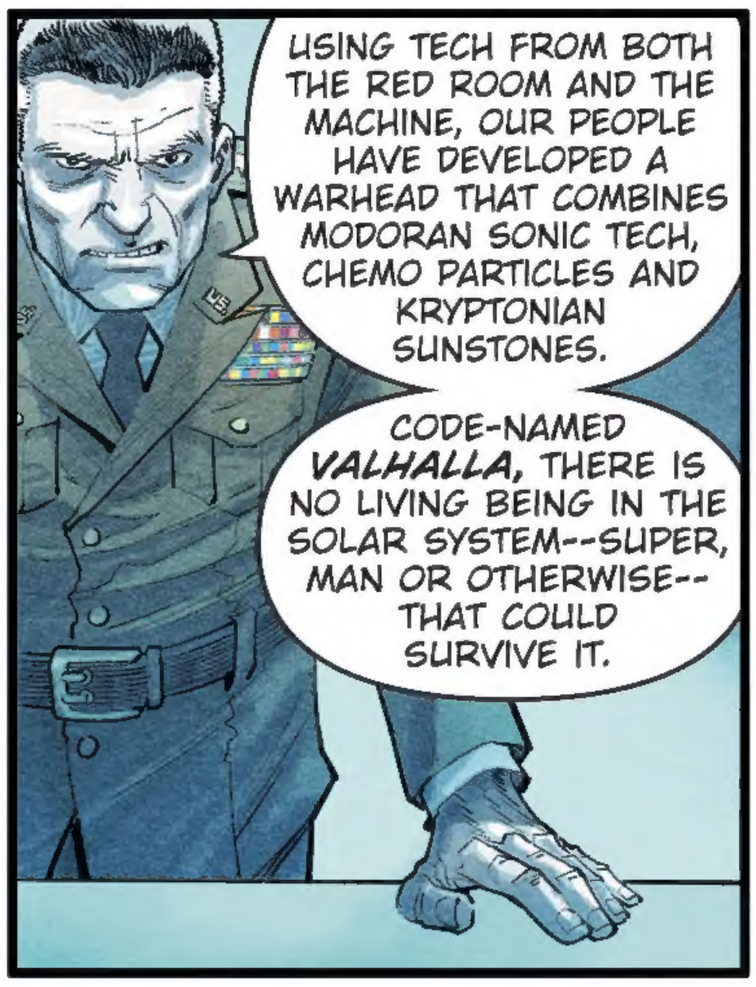
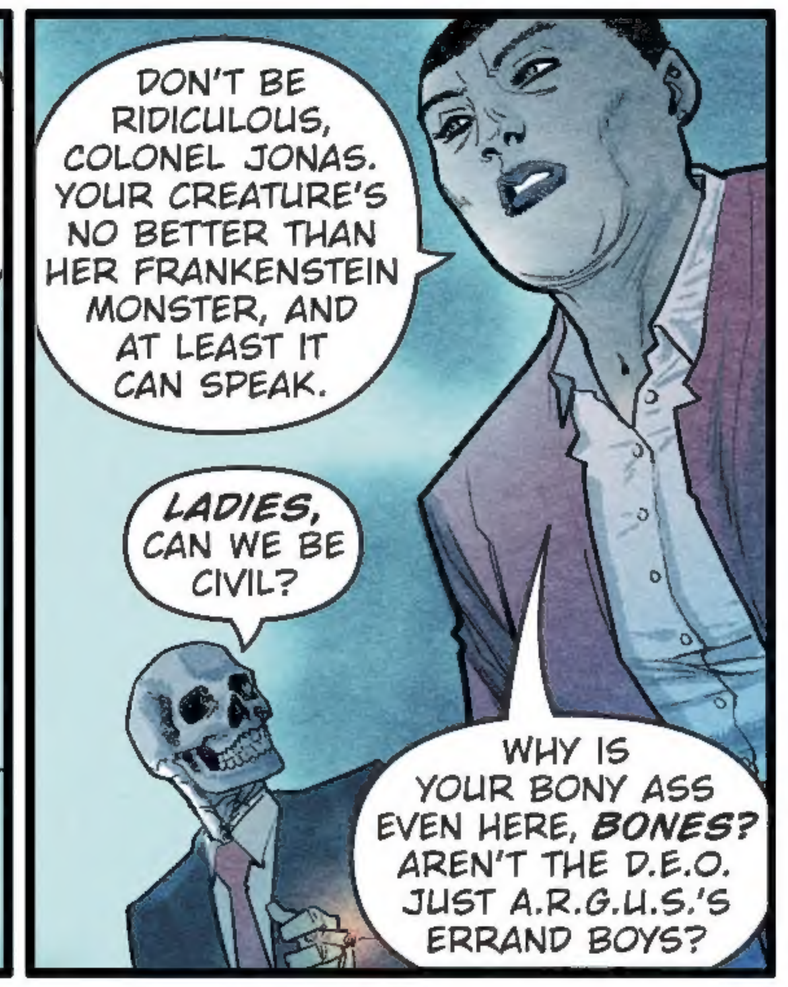
EARTH -12.
THEN.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE FINAL WAR. THE LAST BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.
WE FOUGHT IT TOGETHER, DIANA. WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE END.
IF ONLY WE KNEW...THE REAL WAR HAD JUST BEGUN.
These are the stories from the DARK MULTIVERSE that should NEVER be...
Witness the rise of the Dark Knights...
BATMAN
THE MERCILESS
IN WRATH CHILD
PETER J. TOMASI STORY AND WORDS
FRANCIS MANAPUL ARTIST TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERER
JAY FABOK AND BRAD ANDERSON COVER
ANDREW MARINO ASSISTANT EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER, GREG CAPULLO AND JAMES TYNION IV
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.


NOW.
EARTH-0, OUR WORLD.
Langley, Virginia. HQ of A.R.G.U.S.
The WAR ROOM.
OKAY, PEOPLE, THE FACT THAT BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, A.R.G.U.S. HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH GATHERING THE HEADS OF S.H.A.D.E., THE D.E.O., TASK FORCE X AND OUR OWN MILITARY, LETS YOU KNOW WE'VE NOT ONLY FORMED THE MOST UN-EASIEST OF ALLIANCES...
...BUT ARE ALSO OPERATING UNDER CRISIS PROTOCOLS.
WITH ALL KEY MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE M.I.A. OUR GOAL'S TO LAY OUT OPTIONS FOR COUNTER-MEASURES.
LET'S START WITH THE MILITARY. GENERAL LANE?
WE'RE ALL ADULTS HERE--NO OFFENSE MEANT, FATHER TIME--SO NO NEED TO SUGAR-COAT THIS MESS.
PURE AND SIMPLE, WE'RE ROYALLY SCREWED.
WE'VE GOT US A FULL-SCALE INVASION AS WE SIT HERE.
Welcome to GOTHAM CITY
IN THE FIVE DAYS SINCE THAT MOUNTAIN POKED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF GOTHAM CITY WE'VE SEEN METROPOLIS, CENTRAL CITY, DETROIT, COAST CITY, AMNESTY BAY AND EVEN THE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER BE SYSTEMATICALLY TAKEN OUT BY THESE UNKNOWN FORCES.
EARLY BATTLEFIELD REPORTS DESCRIBED THE INVADERS AS "NIGHTMARE BATMEN."
WE SENT WALLER'S "SUICIDE SQUAD" INTO GOTHAM TO CONFIRM AND TERMINATE, BUT ALL CONTACT'S BEEN LOST.
THE SPECIAL GPS UNITS WE IMPLANTED IN THEM ALL WENT OFFLINE, SO WE ONLY CAN PRESUME THEY'VE BEEN COMPROMISED OR KILLED.
RIGHT, SO WITH ALL THE COLORFUL SUPER-FOLKS SCRATCHED FROM THE LINEUP, AND POTUS MOVED TO AN ORBITAL SECURE ZONE ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE, IT'S TIME FOR US TO DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO, WHICH IS TAKE OVER AND CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

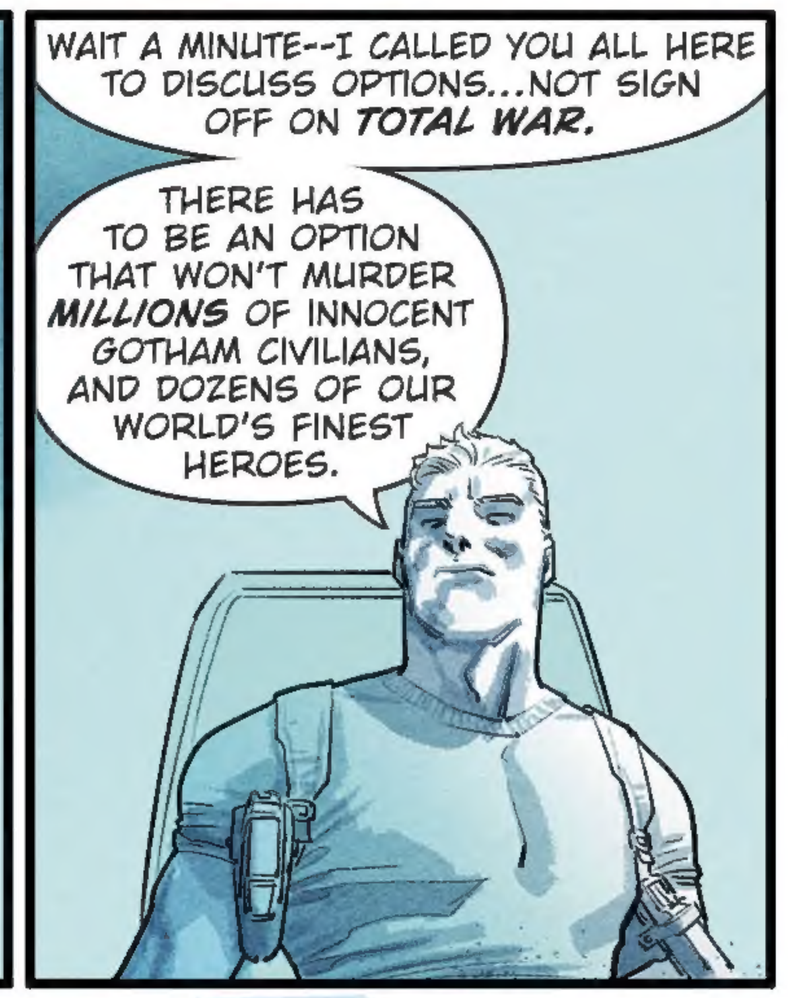

USING TECH FROM BOTH THE RED ROOM AND THE MACHINE, OUR PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED A WARHEAD THAT COMBINES MODORAN SONIC TECH, CHEMO PARTICLES AND KRYPTONIAN SUNSTONES.
CODE-NAMED VALHALLA, THERE IS NO LIVING BEING IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM--SUPER, MAN OR OTHERWISE--THAT COULD SURVIVE IT.

OH, SAMMY, YOU THINK ALL YOUR PROBLEMS CAN JUST BE BLOWN AWAY. YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.
NONE OF YOUR CLAIRVOYANTS OR OTHER MONSTERS FROM S.H.A.D.E. GAVE US ANY WARNING THIS WAS COMING, FATHER TIME. WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
LET ME DROP ELVIS ON THEM.


DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, COLONEL JONAS. YOUR CREATURE'S NO BETTER THAN HER FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER, AND AT LEAST IT CAN SPEAK.
LADIES, CAN WE BE CIVIL?
WHY IS YOUR BONY ASS EVEN HERE, BONES? AREN'T THE D.E.O. JUST A.R.G.U.S.'S ERRAND BOYS?

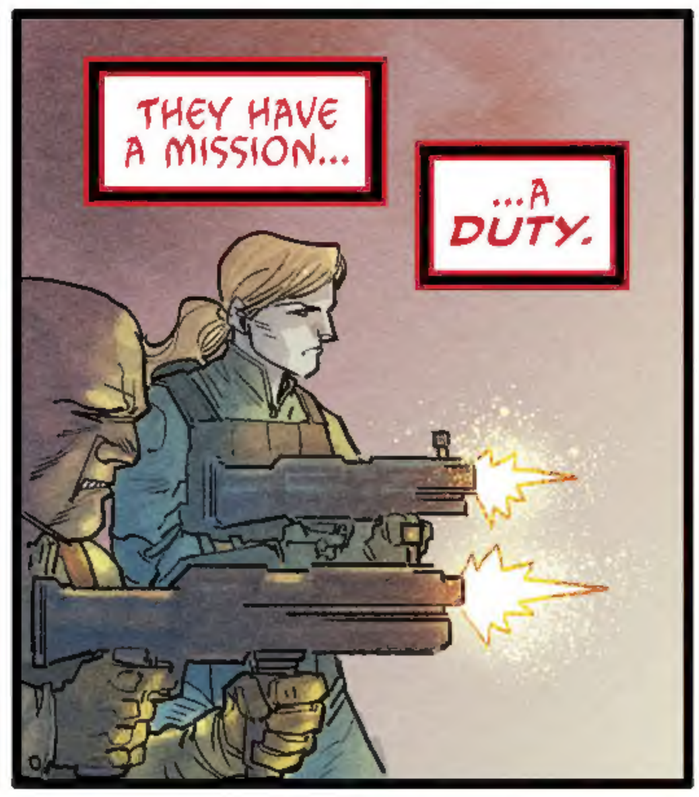
I'M SURE WONDER WOMAN AND THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE ARE PLANNING HOW TO HANDLE THIS. THEY ALWAYS--

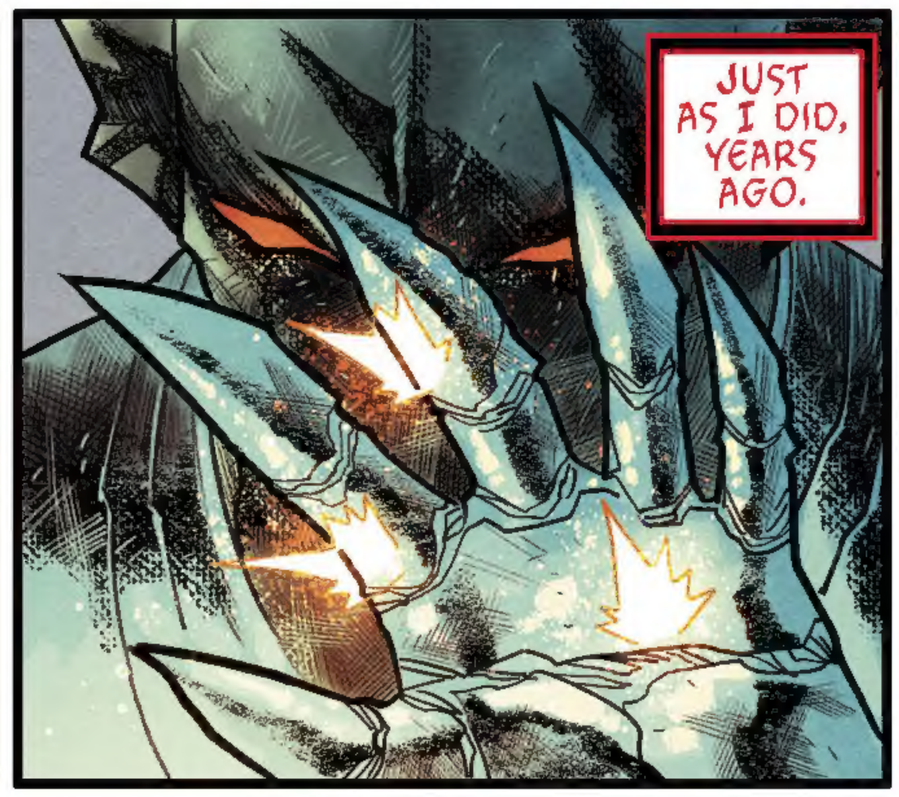
--FAIL.
THE MASKS AND CAPES ARE NOT COMING TO SAVE THE DAY! IT'S ON US TO ACT, AND DO IT NOW!
BIRD'S ALREADY IN THE AIR. WE JUST HAVE TO ZERO IT WHERE IT'LL DO THE MOST GOOD.


WAIT A MINUTE--I CALLED YOU ALL HERE TO DISCUSS OPTIONS...NOT SIGN OFF ON TOTAL WAR.
THERE HAS TO BE AN OPTION THAT WON'T MURDER MILLIONS OF INNOCENT GOTHAM CIVILIANS, AND DOZENS OF OUR WORLD'S FINEST HEROES.

FIGURES A POWER-POINT RANGER LIKE YOU, TREVOR, WOULDN'T HAVE THE STEEL B--
SECURITY BREACH ON UPPER LEVEL!
KRAKOOM

LOOK AT THEM PLAYING AT WAR.
ME, I'VE LIVED IT PRACTICALLY MY WHOLE LIFE.
I WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN MY WAR BEGAN, WITH A SHOT FIRED IN A GOTHAM CITY ALLEY...
...BEGAN WITH AN OATH TO MYSELF THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
AN OATH THAT I WOULD WAGE MY BATTLE JUSTLY, WITH RULES, WITH MERCY, UNLIKE MY ENEMY.
WHAT A FOOL I WAS, BACK THEN.
OH GOD...





I WILL SHOW THEM THE TRUTH.

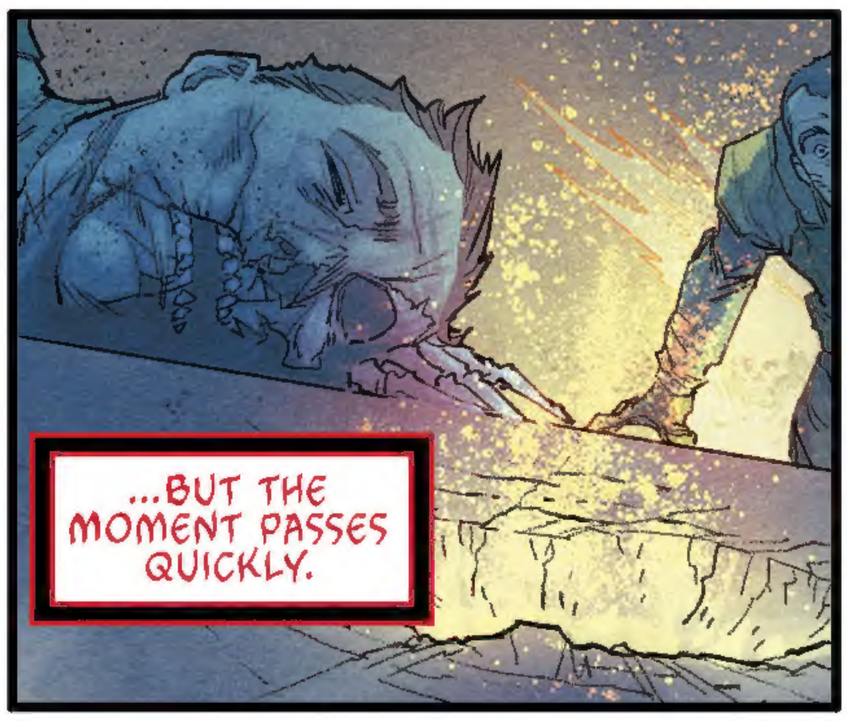
HEARING THEIR SCREAMS, I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK OF MY OLD RULES.

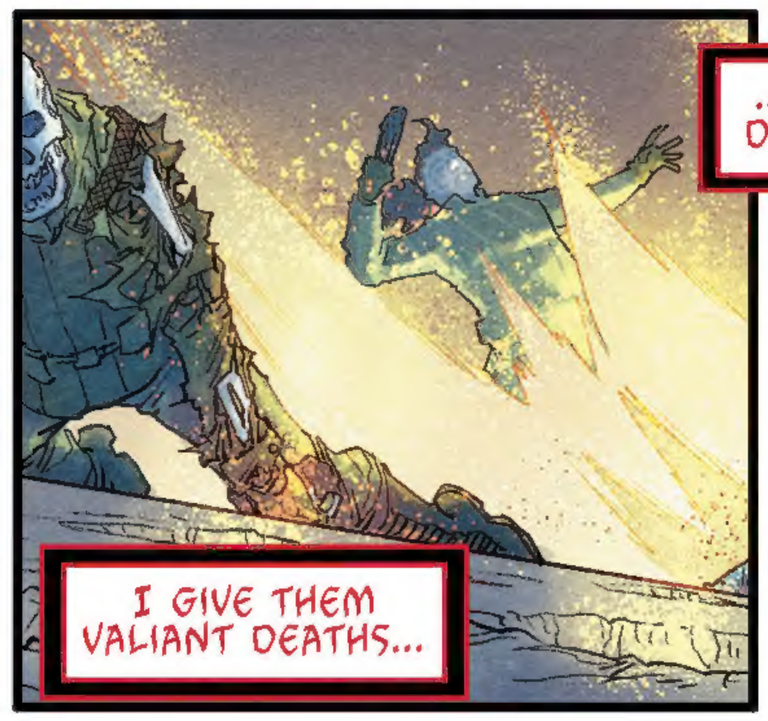
AAAIEE!!!

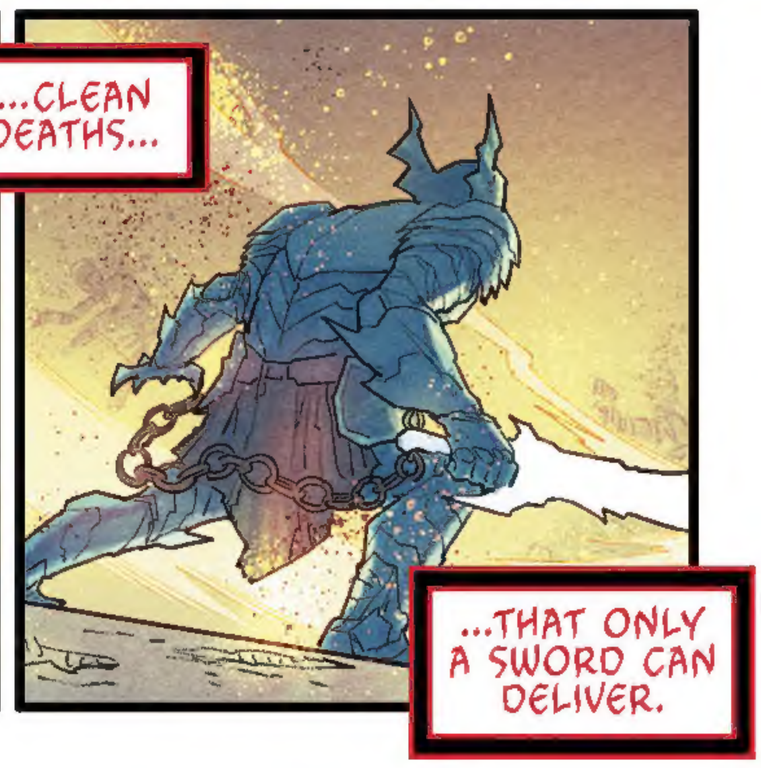
IT BURRNNSSSS!!!

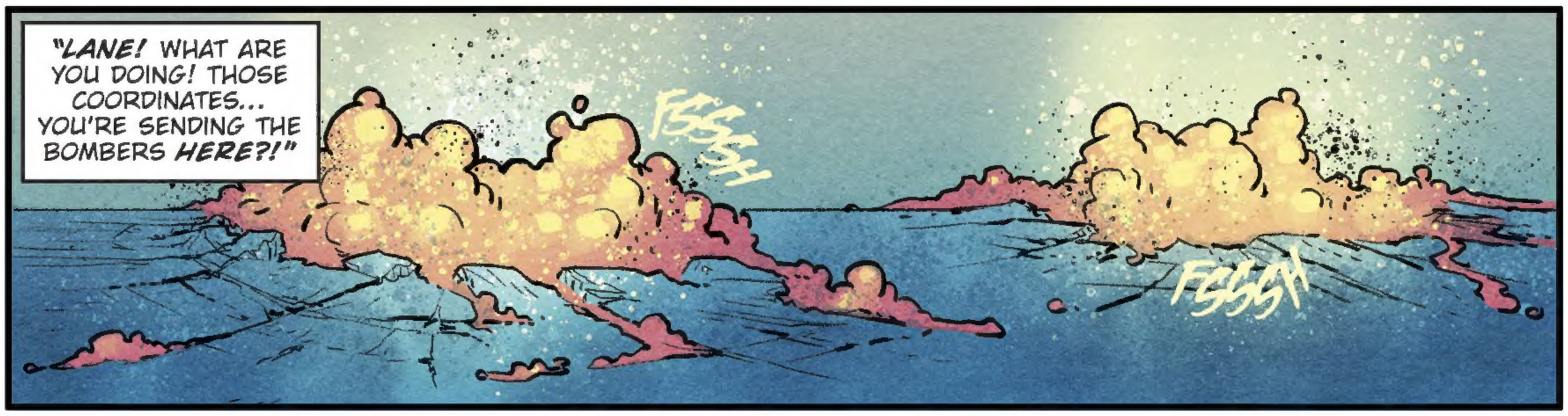
MY CODE.

AND I EVEN FEEL AN URGE TO SPARE THEM. LIKE DIANA URGING ME TO STOP.








"LANE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING! THOSE COORDINATES... YOU'RE SENDING THE BOMBERS HERE?!"
FSSSH
FSSSH

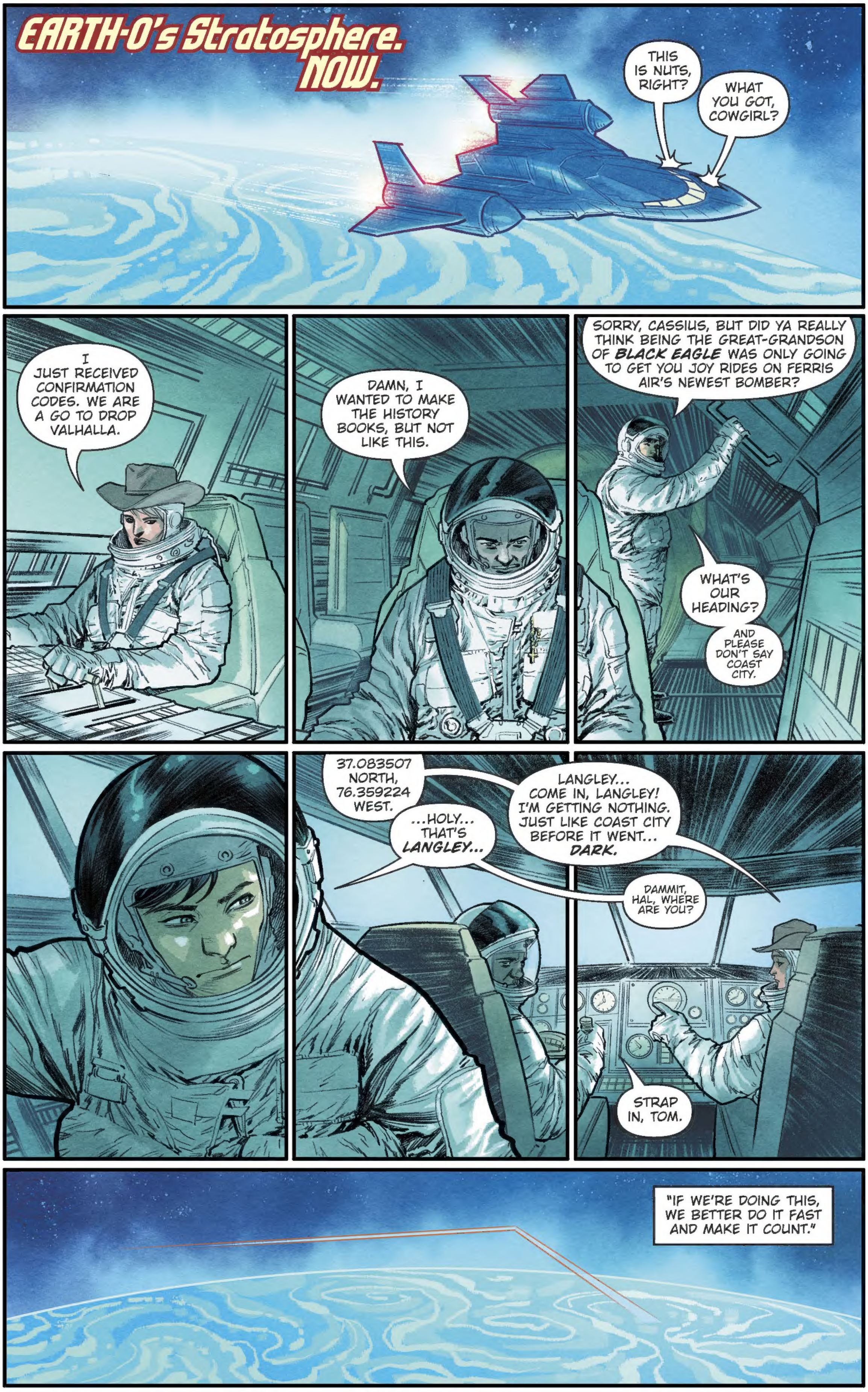
HE'S MAKING HIS WAY TO US, FLOOR BY FLOOR. HE'S AFTER VALHALLA.

SO I SAY WE BRING IT DOWN ON HIS HEAD.
KLIKK

UGNN
KRAK
YOU'RE CRAZY--DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE COMMITTING US TO?!
YOU JUST SIGNED THE DEATH SENTENCE FOR THIS WHOLE DAMN CITY!

STEP AWAY, TREVOR. THE GENERAL IS RIGHT. THIS IS THE BEST OPTION. MILLIONS DEAD TO SAVE BILLIONS.
IT'S JUST MATH.
AND THE JOB.
SHE LOVED A MAN BEFORE ME. TREVOR, AN HONORABLE SOLDIER. HE DIED IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR.

EARTH '12.
IT HAD HAPPENED OVERNIGHT. ARES HAD FORGED A NEW HELMET THAT MAGNIFIED HIS POWERS A HUNDREDFOLD.
IT TOOK US TWO YEARS TO GET TO THE FRONT. WE VOWED TO KILL ARES, DESTROY THE HELMET.
WE NEVER EXPECTED TO WIN. BUT WE DID...THOUGH IT COST DIANA HER LIFE.
THEN.
ARES!
YOU WILL PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
ENLIGHTEN ME.
THE FIELDS OF FIRE ARE LITTERED WITH DEAD.
ALL HAVE FALLEN.
WHO ARE YOU TO CHALLENGE THE GOD OF WAR?
DIANA HAD WARNED ME OF ITS POWER, ITS ABILITY TO CORRUPT...
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, I SAW IT...
SAW THE POSSIBILITY...IF I TOOK THE HELMET, I COULD WIELD ITS POWER MERCIFULLY, WITH RESTRAINT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, WAR COULD BE JUST, FAIR.
WITH CODES AND RULES I WOULD RESHAPE WAR...
...AS ITS DAMNED GOD.


EARTH-0's Stratosphere. NOW.
THIS IS NUTS, RIGHT?
WHAT YOU GOT, COWGIRL?
I JUST RECEIVED CONFIRMATION CODES. WE ARE A GO TO DROP VALHALLA.
DAMN, I WANTED TO MAKE THE HISTORY BOOKS, BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
SORRY, CASSIUS, BUT DID YA REALLY THINK BEING THE GREAT-GRANDSON OF BLACK EAGLE WAS ONLY GOING TO GET YOU JOY RIDES ON FERRIS AIR'S NEWEST BOMBER?
WHAT'S OUR HEADING?
AND PLEASE DON'T SAY COAST CITY.
37.083507 NORTH, 76.359224 WEST.
...HOLY... THAT'S LANGLEY...
LANGLEY... COME IN, LANGLEY! I'M GETTING NOTHING. JUST LIKE COAST CITY BEFORE IT WENT... DARK.
DAMMIT, HAL, WHERE ARE YOU?
STRAP IN, TOM.
"IF WE'RE DOING THIS, WE BETTER DO IT FAST AND MAKE IT COUNT."

WITH YOUR DIRTY PAST, YOU DON'T BELONG IN THIS ALLIANCE, BONES! I SHOULD'VE PUT AN EXPLOSIVE IN YOUR HEAD AND SENT YOU OUT WITH THE SQUAD!
YOU'RE A HYPOCRITICAL TOOL FOR--
FRAKK
GAHH!
YOU'RE SOFT, TREVOR--THAT'S WHY WONDER WOMAN LEFT YOU!
AND YOU'RE A XENOPHOBIC ASS-HAT, LANE. THAT BOMB IS NOT HAPPENING!
GET OFF ME, YOU LITTLE DEMON. HE'S COMING!
HE'S COMING? HE'S ALREADY HERE!
I STARE AT THESE SO-CALLED... WARRIORS IN THE WAR ROOM.
THEY FIGHT LIKE DOGS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM MY PRESENCE.
YOU WOULD EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THEM, DIANA.
YOU WOULD EXPECT THEM TO BAND TOGETHER, NEGOTIATE, COMPROMISE.
I MISS YOU.

THEN.

YOU WOULD HAVE SAID I WAS CORRUPTED BY THE HELMET IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED YOUR DEATH. KILLING THOSE I SHOWED **MERCY** TO BEFORE. MY ENEMIES, AND HEROES WHO STOOD AGAINST.

I WOULD SAY THAT I WAS **PURIFIED.** THAT MY ILLUSIONS WERE FINALLY, RIGHTFULLY STRIPPED AWAY, WITH THE HELMET.

MY WHOLE LIFE, I HAD BEEN **AFRAID** OF DOING WHAT I KNEW **NEEDED** TO BE DONE. AFRAID TO GIVE **ALL** OF MYSELF TO THE BATTLE.

THE HELMET SHOWED ME THAT MY CODES AND RULES WERE NAIVE. THAT ALL THAT TRULY MATTERED WAS **VICTORY.**

AND NOW, I WOULD FINALLY **TAKE** IT FOR MYSELF.

I WAS STORMING OLYMPUS WHEN...

...I HEARD HIS VOICE.

LIKE MINE, BUT IT CHILLED ME TO THE BONE.

IT'S A LOSING WAR, BRUCE.

YOU'RE PLAYING THE GAME RIGHT, BUT THE RULES ARE STACKED AGAINST YOU. TRUST ME. I'VE BEEN READING UP.

YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE THE END OF YOUR GLORIOUS WAR. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BUILD A FINER WORLD FROM THE ASH.

OR PROVE TO DIANA THAT IN THE END THIS SCORCHED PATH WAS RIGHT.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THIS WORLD WILL CEASE TO EXIST. IF NOT FOR ALL THE EXPLOSIONS, YOU WOULD HAVE ALREADY FELT THE TREMORS.

YOU LIE.

THAT HELMET OF YOURS...IT LETS YOU PEER INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN. NOW, I MIGHT NOT HAVE A HEART, BUT YOU CAN SENSE **WHO** I AM, CAN'T YOU?

YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T A TRICK. YOU KNOW I'M SPEAKING THE TRUTH. AND YOU KNOW THAT I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF I DIDN'T HAVE AN OFFER TO MAKE.

YOUR WAR **HERE** IS OVER.

BUT A **GREATER** WAR IS JUST ON THE HORIZON.

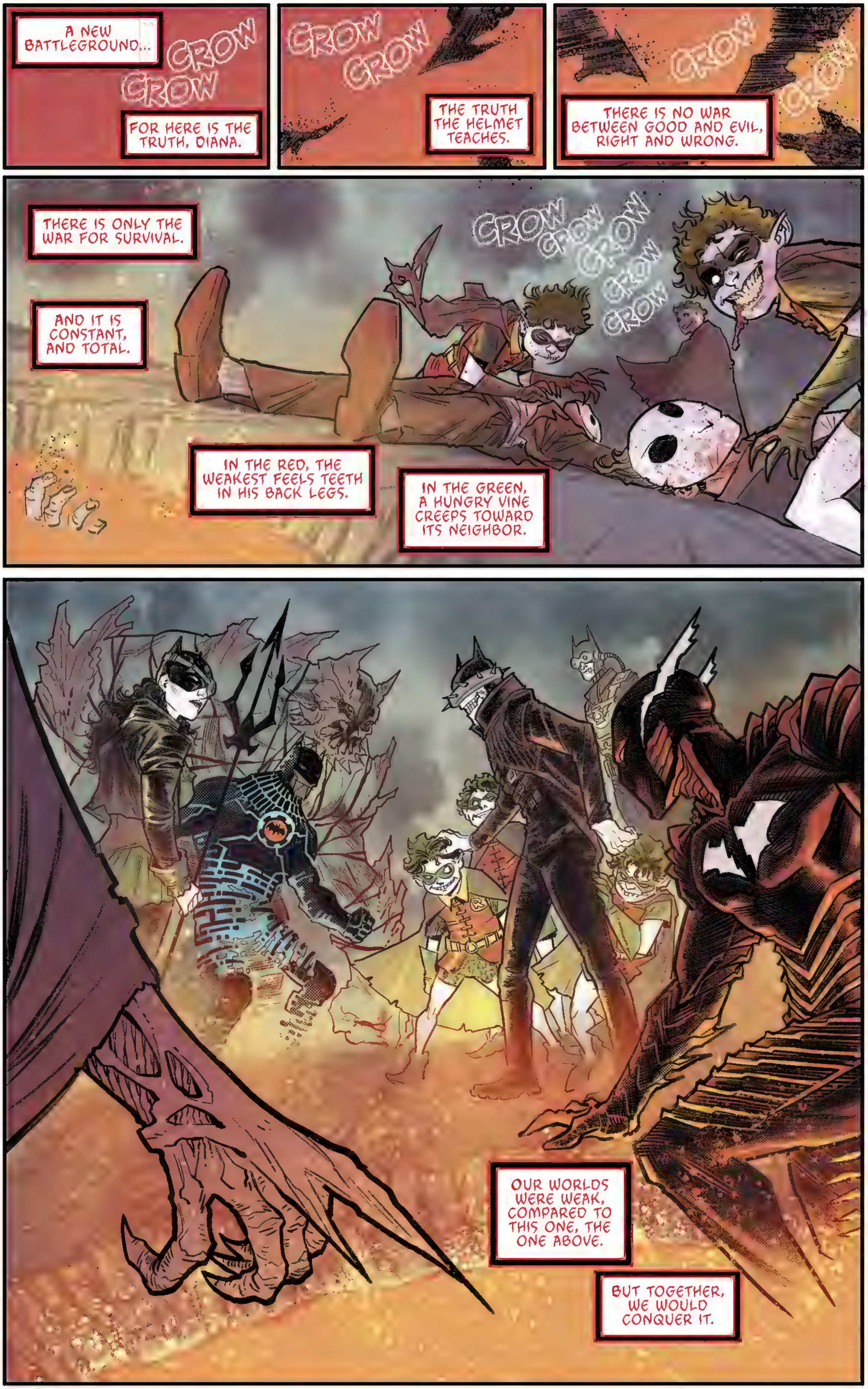
PERHAPS THE GREATEST WAR THE COSMOS HAS EVER SEEN. AND WE'RE GOING TO **NEED** SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS HOW TO WIN IT.

YOU'VE LOST SO MUCH, BRUCE. ALL TO PROVE THAT YOUR WAY IS **RIGHT.**

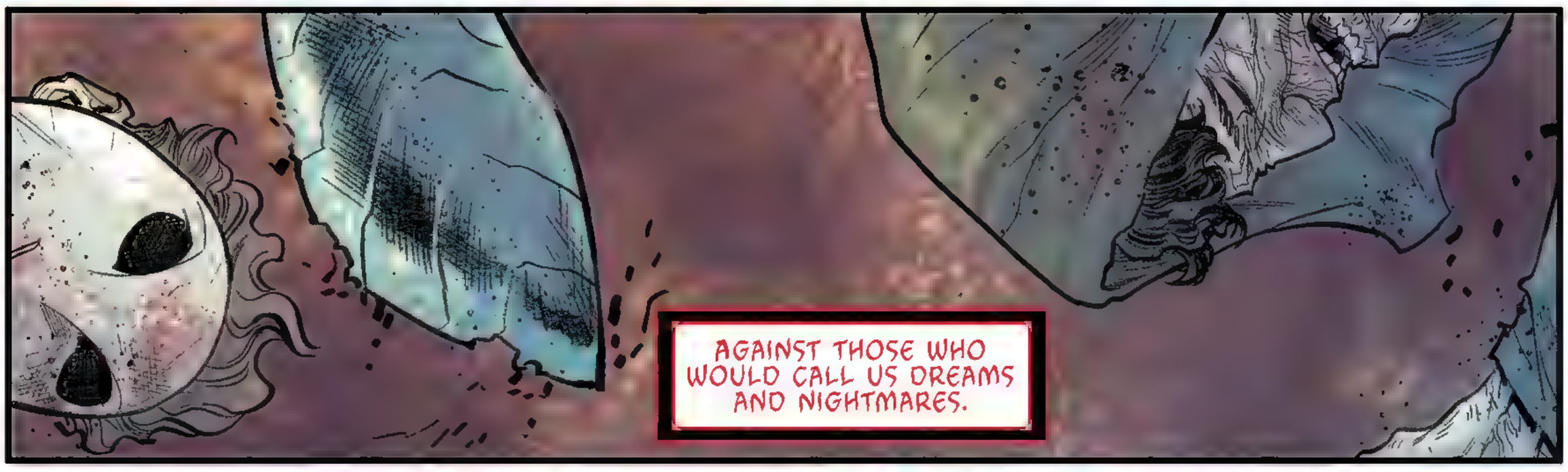
SO LET'S PROVE IT TO **EVERYONE,** ONCE AND FOR ALL.

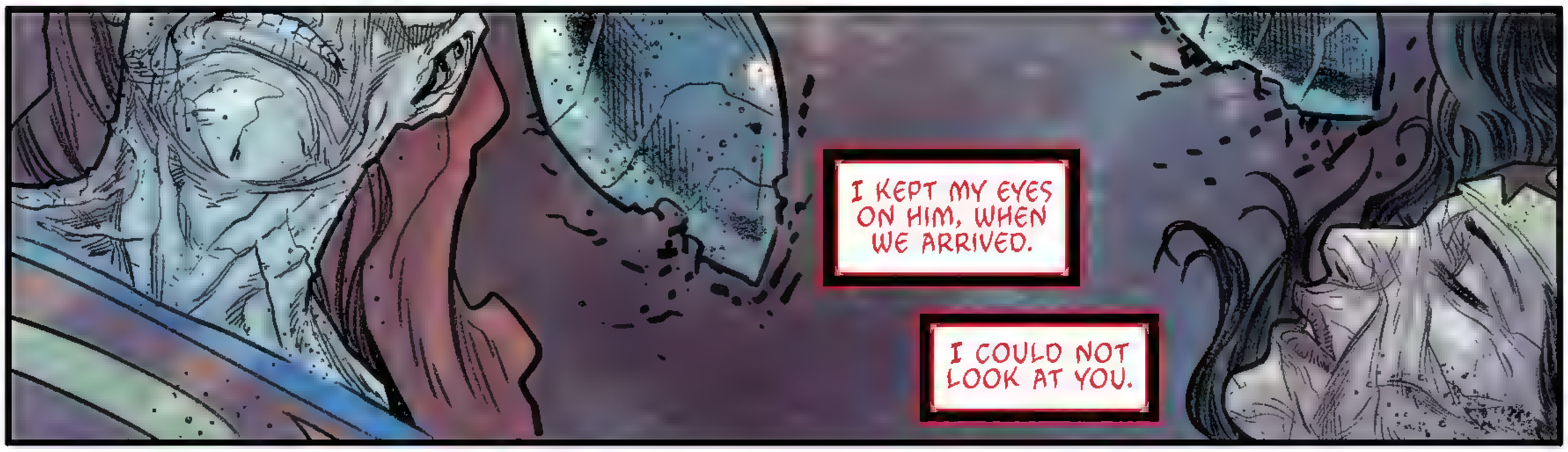
I HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE AND EVERYTHING TO GAIN.

SO I FOLLOWED HIM.


A NEW BATTLEGROUND...
CROW CROW
FOR HERE IS THE TRUTH, DIANA.
CROW CROW
THE TRUTH THE HELMET TEACHES.
CROW
THERE IS NO WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, RIGHT AND WRONG.
THERE IS ONLY THE WAR FOR SURVIVAL.
AND IT IS CONSTANT, AND TOTAL.
CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW
IN THE RED, THE WEAKEST FEELS TEETH IN HIS BACK LEGS.
IN THE GREEN, A HUNGRY VINE CREEPS TOWARD ITS NEIGHBOR.
OUR WORLDS WERE WEAK, COMPARED TO THIS ONE, THE ONE ABOVE.
BUT TOGETHER, WE WOULD CONQUER IT.

WE WOULD **WAGE WAR** AGAINST OUR FATE.





I WANDERED TO AVOID THE SIGHT OF YOU.

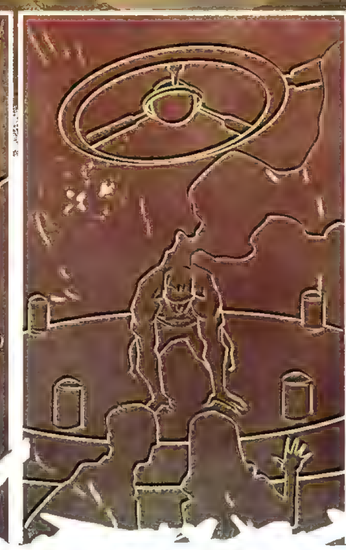
BENEATH THE TOMB WAS A TEMPLE. A TEMPLE BUILT FOR THE BRUCE WAYNE OF THIS WORLD.

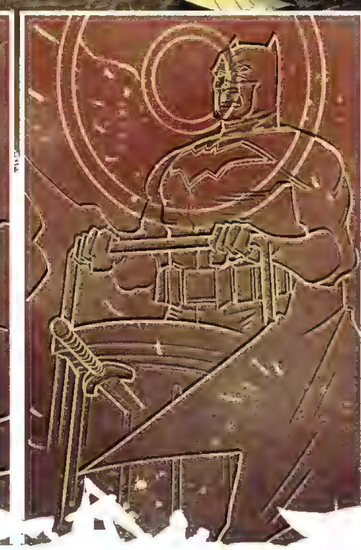
ITS WALLS TOLD HIS STORY.

THE TALE OF HIS WAR OF HALF MEASURES...

THE TALE OF ITS FUTILITY, OF HOW HIS ENEMIES PREYED UPON HIS MERCY, AND USED HIM AS A PAWN.

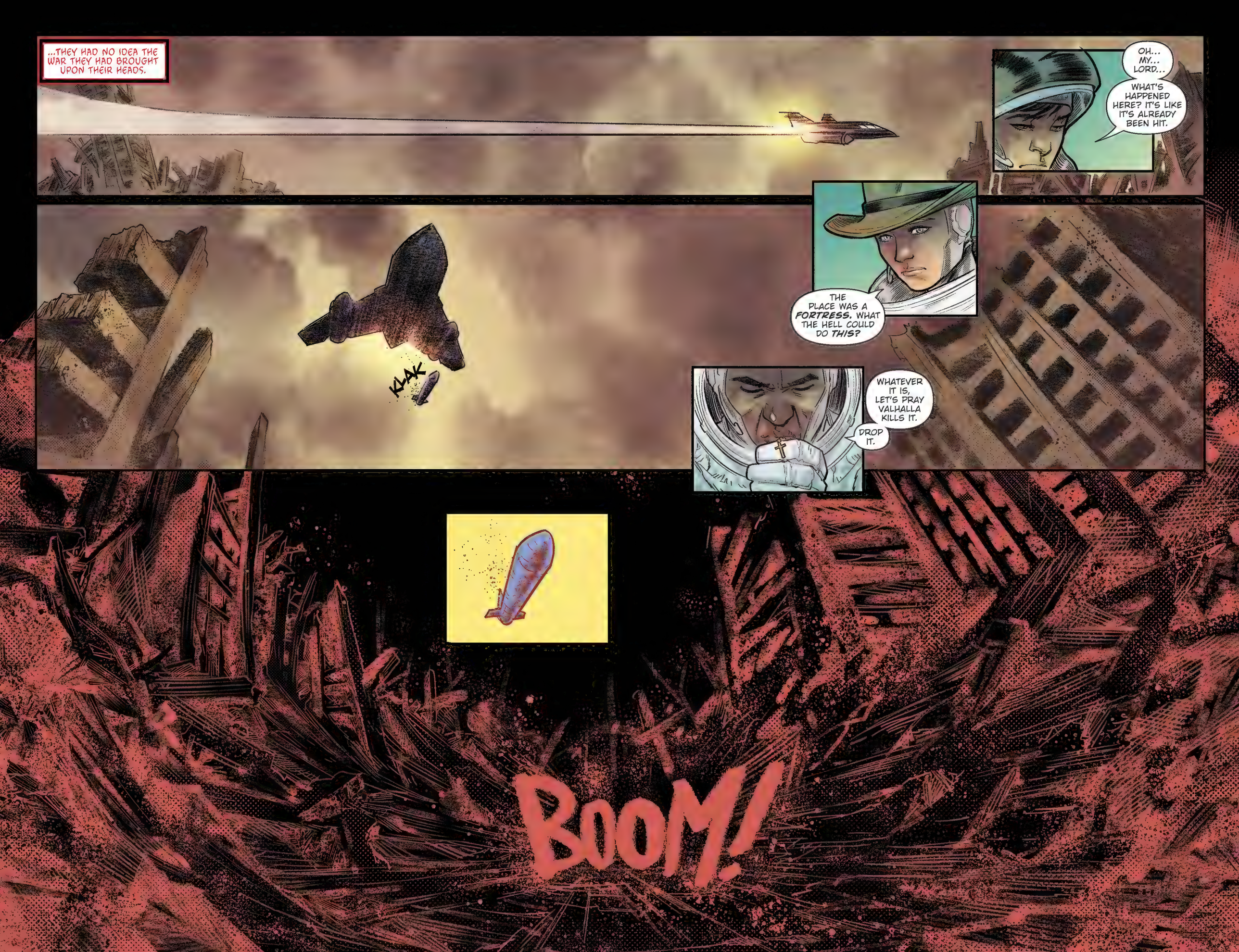
HOW THE COURT OF OWLS, AND THEIR ANCIENT PRIESTS, THE STRIGYDAE, PREPARED HIM OVER YEARS...



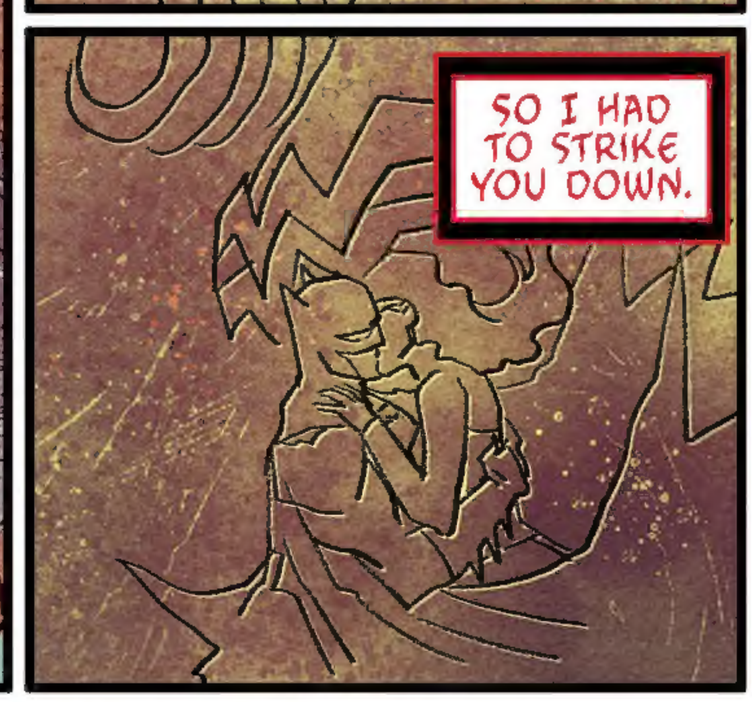


...BAPTIZING HIM IN METAL, THE "MANTLING," MAKING HIM THE PORTAL FOR ALL OF US, AND BARBATOS ITSELF.

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE BRINGING FORTH A GRATEFUL GOD...


...THEY HAD NO IDEA THE WAR THEY HAD BROUGHT UPON THEIR HEADS.
OH... MY... LORD...
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE? IT'S LIKE IT'S ALREADY BEEN HIT.
KLAK
THE PLACE WAS A FORTRESS. WHAT THE HELL COULD DO THIS?
WHATEVER IT IS, LET'S PRAY VALHALLA KILLS IT.
DROP IT.
BOOM!

WHAT READINGS DO WE HAVE, COWGIRL?
...I'M NOT SURE, CASS...
C'MON, TELL ME SOMETHING, WHAT IS IT?
THE BLAST... IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN... ABSORBED?
MY GOD... LOOK! DOWN THERE! ARE THEY...
...PRAYING?
NOW THEY SEE THE TRUTH.
THEIR PRECIOUS WEAPON ONLY MAKES ME STRONGER.
AND FEEDS MY HUNGER.
WITH THE HELMET, I COULD MAKE THEM FIGHT TO THE DEATH FOR MY AMUSEMENT.
BUT THAT WOULD BE MERCIFUL.
INSTEAD, I'LL MAKE THEM WATCH AS I CONQUER THEIR WORLD.
SKRRIKK
...YOU WARNED ME OF ITS POWER.
SKRRIKK
WARNED ME ONCE I PUT IT ON, I'D NEVER TAKE IT OFF.
I LOVE YOU, DIANA. AND I AM SORRY.



WHICH IS WHY HE'LL LOSE.

AND THIS WORLD WILL FALL TO BARBATOS.

NEXT: THE DARK KNIGHTS CONTINUE TO RISE IN DEVASTATOR #1!

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE VS. THE DARK KNIGHTS!

DARK NIGHTS METAL TIE-INS

BATS OUT OF HELL

PART ONE
THE FLASH №33
Written by JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
Art by HOWARD PORTER
10/25/17

PART TWO
JUSTICE LEAGUE №32
Written by ROBERT VENDITTI
Art by LIAM SHARP
11/1/17

PART THREE
HAL JORDAN AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS №32
Written by ROBERT VENDITTI
Art by ETHAN VAN SCIVER
11/8/17

PART FOUR
JUSTICE LEAGUE №33
Written by JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
Art by TYLER KIRKHAM
11/15/17

Connecting covers by ETHAN VAN SCIVER

DC

in theaters **NOVEMBER 17**

A DC ALL ACCESS INTERVIEW WITH

GAL GADOT

How does Diana's story from the *Wonder Woman* film tie into the story line of *Justice League*?

When we were shooting the *Wonder Woman* movie, it was all about Diana and the evolution that she goes through. When we meet her again in *Justice League*, she has been around for many years in the world of men, but it's still the same character. She's there to help people and to try and make the world a better place. The only difference is that she has been working alone for many years.

How do you see her role on the team? What does she bring to the dynamic?

For me it was important that she be the glue of the team. I think that one of the special and beautiful things about Diana is that she cares for people in the most sincere way. So in her scenes, I made sure that she would make every one of them feel stronger, loved and capable. The story in *Justice League* is far bigger than Diana; it's about the entire League.

What was it like the first time you saw everyone in costume?

Surreal. It was super-strange and funny but very exciting. In the first two days that we were shooting, one moment I'm being super-serious with the sword and the shield, and the next I would just burst out loud laughing. Everyone looks just like they do in the comic books. Then they cut and it's like Halloween.

Does Diana fight differently and blend her skills alongside her new teammates?

I think the only difference is that they have to work together. It's like a dance. One of them should set up the hit and then another should deliver it at the perfect time. I think that fighting alongside the team puts more stress on Diana, because she doesn't want anything to happen to any of them.

DON'T MISS

JUSTICE LEAGUE DAY

ON **11/18/17**

Visit **dccomics.com/JLday** for more details!

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